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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/583,301	06/11/2007	Salehuzzaman Shah	080426-000000US	2658

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TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP
TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER
EIGHTH FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834

EXAMINER

MCLEWAIN, ELIZABETH F

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1638

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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07/13/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/583,301		SHAH ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Elizabeth F. McElwain		1638	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 April 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17, 26 and 32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-10 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-17, 26 and 32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>See Continuation Sheet</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date
:6/18/07;10/12/07;3/19/09;6/1/09.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 1-10 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on April 5, 2010.

2. The amendment filed April 5, 2010 has been entered.
3. Claims 1-17, 26 and 32 are pending.
4. Claims 11-17, 26 and 32 are examined on the merits.

Specification

The specification is objected to for having regions of text that are illegible. See page 2, line 7; page 14, line 7; and page 22, line 6; for example.

The abstract of the disclosure does not commence on a separate sheet in accordance with 37 CFR 1.52(b)(4). A new abstract of the disclosure is required and must be presented on a separate sheet, apart from any other text.

Claim Objections

Claim 11 is objected to for stating “the recombinant polypeptide”, which should read “a recombinant polypeptide”.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 11-17, 26 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin et al (WO 00/11012 A1 in IDS) taken with Nishizawa et al (US Patent 6,043,411 in IDS).

8. The claims are drawn to a nucleic acid molecule encoding a delta-9 desaturase coding sequence from a prokaryote operably linked to an endoplasmic reticulum (ER) retention and retrieval signal sequence, and said sequence in a vector, a host cell, a plant cell or transgenic plant, and a method comprising extracting oil from said plant.

9. Martin et al teach a nucleic acid molecule encoding a heterologous or synthetic delta-9 desaturase coding sequence operably linked to an endoplasmic reticulum (ER) retention and retrieval signal sequence, including the FAD2 sequence from Arabidopsis having a KKXX motif (page 61, line 18) and said sequence in a vector, a host cell, a plant cell or transgenic plant,

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including Brassica (mustard), olive (Olea), oil palm, and corn for producing plants with reduced levels of saturated fatty acids (see pages 1, 29-35 and 64, for example) and a method comprising extracting oil from said plant. Martin et al teach extraction of fatty acids from plants at pages 3-6, at least.

10. Martin et al do not specifically teach a delta-9 desaturase coding sequence from a prokaryote.

11. Nishizawa et al teach a delta-9 desaturase coding sequence from the prokaryote *Anacystis* for transformation of plants and extraction of oils with reduced saturation of fatty acids (see the Brief Description at paragraphs 9-27, and the Detailed Description at paragraphs 47-58). In addition, Nishizawa et al teach that this prokaryotic gene is desirable to express in plants because it acts on 16:0 fatty acids that are abundant in plants (at paragraph 3 of the Brief Description), and that any known plant regulatory elements can be used in combination with said coding sequence for transformation of plant cells (see paragraph 15 of the Detailed Description).

12. Therefore, given the teachings of Martin et al of the value of transforming a plant cell or plant with a delta-9 desaturase coding sequence that is operably linked to an ER retention element for production of plants having reduced levels of saturated fatty acids, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to substitute another known delta-9 desaturase coding sequence, such as that from the prokaryote *Anacystis*, particularly in view of the teachings of Nishizawa et al of said sequence and the activity of said sequence on 16:0 fatty acids that are abundant in plants. Thus the claimed invention would have been prima facie obvious as a whole to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time it was made, especially in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

Conclusion

No claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elizabeth F. McElwain whose telephone number is (571) 272-0802. The examiner can normally be reached on increased flex time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anne Marie Grunberg can be reached on (571) 272-0975. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

EFM

/Elizabeth F. McElwain/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1638